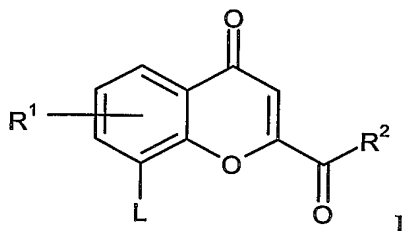


-9-

CLAIMS

1. A process of preparing a compound of formula I:



5

wherein

R^1 is selected from H, C_{1-10} alkyl, halogen, amino, C_{1-6} alkyl-oxy, or hydroxy;

L is a displaceable group selected from bromo, chloro, fluoro or iodo; and

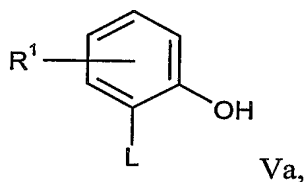
R^2 is selected from H, C_{1-6} alkyl, halogen, hydroxy, amino, C_{1-6} alkyl-amino, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl, C_{1-6} alkyl-oxy and C_{1-6} alkyl-oxycarbonyl optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, amino and hydroxy;

10

comprising:

15

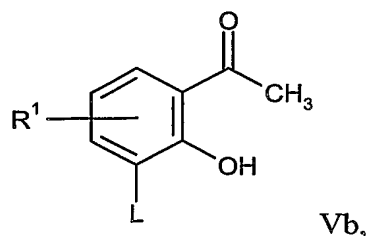
- A) heating a mixture of a compound of formula Va:



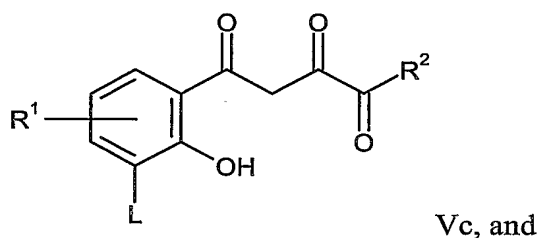
20

and acetylating agent in the presence of a Lewis acid catalyst at a temperature and for a time effective to give compounds of formula Vb:

-10-

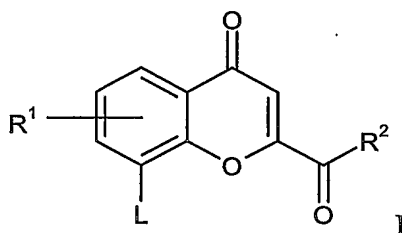


B) combining the compounds of formula Vb and a dicarbonyl compound to an alcohol solution at a temperature and for a time effective to give compounds of formula Vc:



C) heating the compound of formula Vc with a mixture of acids at a temperature and for a time effective to give compounds of formula I.

2. A process according to claim 1, wherein R¹ is, independently, hydrogen or fluoro.
3. A process according to claim 1, wherein R² is, independently, H, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyl-oxy or hydroxy.
4. A process according to claim 1, wherein L is bromo.
5. A process of preparing a compound of formula I:



wherein

R¹ is selected from H, C₁₋₁₀alkyl, halogen, amino, C₁₋₆alkyl-oxy, or hydroxy;

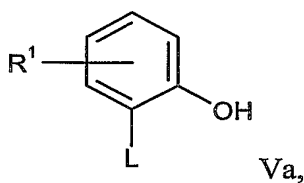
L is a displaceable group selected from bromo, chloro, fluoro or iodo; and

-11-

R^2 is selected from H, C_{1-6} alkyl, halogen, hydroxy, amino, C_{1-6} alkyl-amino, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl, C_{1-6} alkyl-oxy and C_{1-6} alkyl-oxycarbonyl optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, amino and hydroxy;

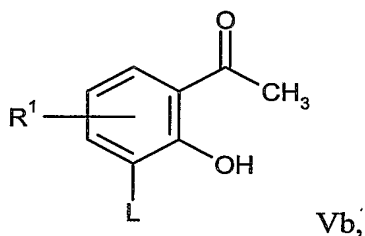
5 comprising:

A) heating a mixture of a compound of formula Va:



10

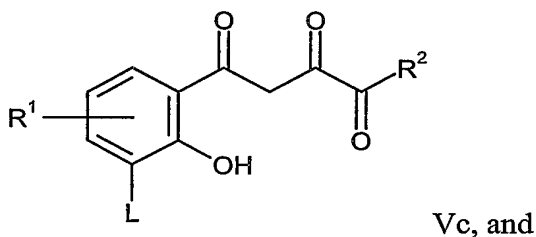
and acetyl chloride in the presence of either aluminum chloride or zirconium tetrachloride at a temperature and for a time effective to give compounds of formula Vb:



15

B) combining the compounds of formula Vb and diethyl oxalate to a solution of sodium ethoxide in absolute ethanol at a temperature and for a time effective to give compounds of formula Vc:

20



-12-

C) heating the compound of formula Vc with a mixture of acetic acid and hydrochloric acid at a temperature and for a time effective to give compounds of formula I.

- 5 6. A process according to claim 5, wherein R^1 is, independently, hydrogen or fluoro.
7. A process according to claim 5, wherein R^2 is, independently, H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkyl-oxy or hydroxy.
8. A process according to claim 5, wherein L is bromo.